Message Text

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ACTION EB-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 NSC-07

RSC-01 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9754

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIN, CI, DA

SUBJECT: CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING

REF: COPENHAGEN 1821

1. FONOFF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILE DEBT QUESTION (HANS BIERING) TOLD ECON COUNSELOR ON SEPT. 30 THAT BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH CHILE IS NOW IN FINAL DRAFT STAGE WITH ALL ASPECTS AGREED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCEPT FOR FEW MINOR TECHNICAL POINTS AND ONE

IMPORTANT ISSUE: THE CONSOLIDATION INTEREST RATE. BIERING SAID THAT HE WILL BE MEETING WITHIN SEVERAL DAYS WITH CHILEAN CHARGE AND INITIATE INTEREST RATE DISCUSSIONS BY PROPOSING RATE OF 8.5 PERCENT, OR MORE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT CHILEANS WILL BE SHOCKED BY THIS FIGURE BUT BELIEVES IT SUPPORTABLE IN VIEW OF RAPID RISE IN COMMERCIAL INTEREST RATES SINCE 1972 CONSOLIDATION.

2. EMBOFF EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT HIGH FIGURE IN LIGHT OF BIERING'S COMMENTS EARLIER THAT DENMARK WOULD PROBABLY SETTLE SOMEWHERE IN THE 6-7.5 PERCENT RANGE (REFTEL). BIERING SAID TWO FACTORS HAVE CAUSED STIFFENING IN THE DANISH POSITION: (A) FINANCE MINISTRY'S INSIS-TENCE THAT RATE BE INCREASED BECAUSE OF VERY HIGH COST OF MONEY IN DENMARK; AND (B) RISING POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES ABOUT CHILE, ABETTED RECENTLY BY VISIT OF MRS. ALLENDE TO DENMARK. BIERING SAID DANISH GOVERNMENT MUST BE PARTICU-LARLY CAREFUL TO AVOID EXCESSIVELY LARGE DIFFER-ENTIAL BETWEEN CONSOLIDATION INTEREST RATE AND COMMERCIAL RATES; TO DO SO WOULD MEAN TROUBLE-SOME CHARGES THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING AID, NOT DEBT RELIEF. BIERING ADDED THAT START-ING POINT OF 8.5 PERCENT, OR MORE, IS NOT OUT OF LINE WITH SOME OTHERS; HE UNDERSTANDS SWEDES ARE ASKING 8 PERCENT. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT DENMARK WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE AT LOWER FIGURE, PROVIDED CHILE COMES UP WITH GOOD ARGUMENTS. HE HOPED THEY WOULD. IN THAT CASE, HE WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT DENMARK WOULD GO DOWN TO THE FIGURES HE HAD GIVEN US EARLIER.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT. BIERING CLIMBED UP THE INTEREST RATE HILL AND DOWN AGAIN. THE CONVERSATION IS INTERESTING, HOWEVER, AS INDICATION OF INTERPLAY OF DOMESTIC POLITICS WITH THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE. THE RECENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THE CONTINUING MINORITY POSITION OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT MAKE IT MORE THAN USUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO PRESSURES OF THE SORT ANTI-CHILEAN JUNTA ELEMENTS CAN STILL AROUSE IN DENMARK. DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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